

# SINGULAR $R$ -MATRICES AND DRINFELD'S COMULTIPLICATION

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**ABSTRACT.** We compute the  $R$ -matrix which intertwines two dimensional evaluation representations with Drinfeld comultiplication for  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  [Dr2]. This  $R$ -matrix contains terms proportional to the  $\delta$ -function. We construct the algebra  $A(R)$  [RSTS] generated by the elements of the matrices  $L^\pm(z)$  with relations determined by  $R$ . In the category of highest weight representations there is a Hopf algebra isomorphism between  $A(R)$  and an extension  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  of Drinfeld's algebra.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This note contains two results concerning the algebra  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  with Drinfeld comultiplication [Dr2]. This algebra is presented in terms of current generators, and as an algebra, it is isomorphic [B] to the Drinfeld-Jimbo  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  [Dr, J]. However it has a different comultiplication and therefore a different Hopf algebra structure.

The first result presented here is a direct calculation of the  $R$ -matrix which acts as an intertwiner of two dimensional evaluation representations. The second is the construction of the  $L$ -matrix algebra  $A(R)$ , presented in terms of relations between generators  $L^\pm(z)$ , following the construction in [RSTS], and the isomorphism between  $A(R)$  and Drinfeld's algebra.

The quantum  $R$ -matrix which intertwines evaluation representations with Drinfeld comultiplication is completely determined, up to a scalar factor, from the evaluation representation of Drinfeld's generators and the action of the comultiplication on these generators, from the equation

$$\tilde{R}(\frac{z}{w})(\pi_z \otimes \pi_w)\Delta(x) = (\pi_z \otimes \pi_w)\Delta'(x)\tilde{R}(\frac{z}{w}), \quad x \in U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$$

(see section 2.3 for notation). These relations are considered here as relations between formal power series. It is shown that this implies that the  $R$ -matrix contains terms proportional to the  $\delta$ -function.

This matrix is then used to construct the algebra  $A(R)$ , generated by elements of the triangular matrices  $L^\pm(z)$ , with relations determined by the  $R$ -matrix, of the form

$$\begin{aligned} R(\frac{z}{w})L_1^\pm(z)L_2^\pm(w) &= L_2^\pm(w)L_1^\pm(z)R(\frac{z}{w}), \\ R(\frac{z}{w}q^{-c})L_1^+(z)L_2^-(w) &= L_2^-(w)L_1^+(z)R(\frac{z}{w}q^c) \end{aligned}$$

(see section 3 for the precise definition), in a construction following the method of [RTF, RSTS]. This algebra has a natural Hopf algebra structure, and the intertwining relation of the  $R$ -matrix follows easily from the Yang-Baxter relation for  $R$ . We construct the Hopf algebra isomorphism between  $A(R)$  and an extended version of Drinfeld's algebra,  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ .

In the final section the Poisson limit  $q \rightarrow 1$  of the quantum algebra  $A(R)$  is computed. The relations in this Poisson algebra are determined by the classical  $r$ -matrix.

It is straightforward to generalize the construction presented here to the case of  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_n)$  [K]. However most of the new features of the construction are already seen in the case  $n = 2$ .

## 2. DRINFELD'S "NEW REALIZATION" OF $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$

**2.1. Generators and relations.** Consider the Drinfeld realization of the algebra  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  [Dr2] generated by

$$q^{\pm c}, \quad \phi_{\pm n}^{\pm}, \quad \xi_m^{\pm}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (1)$$

with  $q^{\pm c}$  central and relations expressed in terms of the generating series

$$\xi^{\pm}(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \xi_n^{\pm} z^n, \quad \phi^{\pm}(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \phi_{\pm n}^{\pm} z^{\pm n} \quad (2)$$

as follows. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \mathbb{C}[[h]]$  be ring formal power series in  $h$ , where  $q = e^{h/2}$ . Let

$$g(z) = \frac{q^2 z - 1}{z - q^2} \in \mathcal{B}[[z]] \quad (3)$$

be an element of  $\mathcal{B}$  with coefficients formal power series in  $z$ . (Throughout this paper the notation  $f(z)$  will be used to denote functions in  $\mathcal{B}[[z]]$ ,  $f(z^{-1}) \in \mathcal{B}[[z^{-1}]]$ , etc..)

The relations between the generating series (2) are the following formal power series relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^+(0)\phi^-(0) &= \phi^-(0)\phi^+(0) = 1, \\ [\phi^{\pm}(z), \phi^{\pm}(w)] &= 0, \\ \phi^+(z)\phi^-(w) &= \frac{g(\frac{z}{w}q^{-c})}{g(\frac{z}{w}q^c)} \phi^-(w)\phi^+(z) \\ \phi^{\pm}(z)\xi^{\pm}(w) &= g\left(\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)^{\pm 1}\right) \xi^{\pm}(w)\phi^{\pm}(z) \\ \phi^{\pm}(z)\xi^{\mp}(w) &= g\left(\left(\frac{z}{w}q^c\right)^{\pm 1}\right)^{-1} \xi^{\mp}(w)\phi^{\pm}(z) \\ (z - q^{\pm 2}w)\xi^{\pm}(z)\xi^{\pm}(w) &= (q^{\pm 2}z - w)\xi^{\pm}(w)\xi^{\pm}(z) \\ [\xi^+(z), \xi^-(w)] &= (q - q^{-1}) \left( \delta(\frac{z}{w}q^{-c})\phi^-(w) - \delta(\frac{z}{w}q^c)\phi^+(z) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here, the function  $\delta(z)$  is a formal series,

$$\delta(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} z^n.$$

It can also be regarded as a distribution which acts on the space of functions  $f(z)$  regular at  $z = 1$ .

**2.2. Hopf algebra structure.** As an algebra, Drinfeld's algebra (4) is isomorphic to the Drinfeld-Jimbo  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  [Dr, J, B]. However it can be endowed with the Hopf

algebra structure of [Dr2] which is different from that found in [Dr, J]. In this paper, the notation  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  refers to Drinfeld's algebra as a Hopf algebra. **Co-product:**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(q^c) &= q^c \otimes q^c, \\ \Delta(\xi^+(z)) &= \xi^+(z) \otimes 1 + \phi^+(z) \otimes \xi^+(zq^{c_1}), \\ \Delta(\xi^-(z)) &= 1 \otimes \xi^-(z) + \xi^-(zq^{c_2}) \otimes \phi^-(z), \\ \Delta(\phi^+(z)) &= \phi^+(z) \otimes \phi^+(zq^{c_1}), \\ \Delta(\phi^-(z)) &= \phi^-(zq^{c_2}) \otimes \phi^-(z).\end{aligned}\tag{5}$$

Here,  $c_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  is the value of the central charge acting on the  $i$ -th factor in the tensor product.

**Co-unit:**

$$\varepsilon(q^c) = 1, \quad \varepsilon(\phi^\pm(z)) = 1, \quad \varepsilon(\xi^\pm(z)) = 0.\tag{6}$$

**Antipode:**

$$\begin{aligned}S(q^c) &= q^{-c}, \\ S(\phi^\pm(z)) &= \phi^\pm(zq^{-c})^{-1}, \\ S(\xi^+(z)) &= -\phi^+(zq^{-c})^{-1}\xi^+(zq^{-c}), \\ S(\xi^-(z)) &= -\xi^-(zq^{-c})\phi^-(zq^{-c})^{-1}.\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

These satisfy the condition  $m \circ (S \otimes \text{id}) \circ \Delta = \varepsilon = m \circ (\text{id} \otimes S) \circ \Delta$ , where  $m(x \otimes y) = xy$ .

**Remark 2.1** *Normal ordering:* Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be the category of highest weight representations, where the positive modes  $\phi_n^+, \xi_n^\pm, \phi_{-n}^-, n > 0$  act nilpotently to the right. The product of two generating functions in  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  is well defined when it is normally ordered, i.e. all positive modes on the right and the negative on the left. Then in the category  $\mathcal{O}$  normally ordered products of generating functions act as Laurent series.

The relations above describe a Hopf algebra structure in the category  $\mathcal{O}$ . The antipode should have the property  $\langle xv, w \rangle = \langle v, S(x)w \rangle$ ,  $x \in U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ ,  $v \in M^*$ ,  $w \in M$ , where  $M \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $M^* \in \mathcal{O}^*$  the right dual to  $M$ , and  $\mathcal{O}^*$  is the category of lowest weight modules. Therefore acting by  $S$  on a normally ordered product of generating functions gives an anti-normally ordered product which acts in  $\mathcal{O}^*$  as Laurent series.

**2.3. The  $R$ -matrix.** Let  $V = \text{End}(\mathbb{C}^2)$  be the two dimensional representation of  $sl_2$  with basis  $v_1, v_2$ . Consider the two-dimensional evaluation representation of  $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ ,  $V_z = V \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}[z, z^{-1}]$ . The map

$$\pi_z : U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)|_{c=0} \rightarrow V[z, z^{-1}]$$

is defined by [DI]

$$\begin{aligned}\xi^\pm(w) &\mapsto (q - q^{-1}) \delta\left(\frac{w}{z}\right) \sigma^\pm && \in V[z, z^{-1}][[w, w^{-1}]] \\ \phi^+(w) &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} d(q^2 \frac{w}{z}) & 0 \\ 0 & d(\frac{w}{z})^{-1} \end{pmatrix} && \in V[z^{-1}][[w]], \\ \phi^-(w) &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} d(\frac{z}{w})^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & d(q^2 \frac{z}{w}) \end{pmatrix} && \in V[z][[w^{-1}]],\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

where

$$d(z) = \frac{1-z}{q-q^{-1}z} \quad (9)$$

and  $\sigma^\pm$  are the Pauli matrices. Here, the notation  $\mathbb{C}[z][[w]]$  indicates formal power series in  $w$  with coefficients polynomials in  $z$ , etc.

**Proposition 2.1.** *There is a unique, up to a scalar multiple,  $4 \times 4$  matrix  $\tilde{R}(z)$  with diagonal entries in  $\mathcal{B}[[z]]$  and off diagonal elements in  $\mathcal{B}[[z, z^{-1}]]$  which satisfies the intertwining relation*

$$\tilde{R}(z/z')(\pi_z \otimes \pi_{z'})\Delta(x) = (\pi_z \otimes \pi_{z'})\Delta'(x)\tilde{R}(z/z'), \quad x \in U_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2). \quad (10)$$

This unique solution is  $\tilde{R}(z) = R_{12}^{-1}(z)$ , where

$$R_{12}(z) = f(z) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & d(z) & 0 & \\ & \gamma(z)\delta(z) & d(q^2z) & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

where  $\gamma(z) = (q - q^{-1})d(z) = \frac{(q-q^{-1})(1-z)}{q-q^{-1}z}$ .

**Remark 2.2** Here,  $(1-z)^n\delta(z)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  can be thought of as a distribution acting on the space of functions with poles of order less than or equal to  $n$ .

The proof of proposition (2.1) is provided in the appendix.

The matrix  $R$  will be used in the next section to define the algebra  $A(R)$ . The scalar factor  $f(z)$  is uniquely determined from the requirement that the quantum determinant is central (see next section), which gives

$$f(z) = q^{1/2}(1-z)\tilde{g}(z)^2 \in \mathcal{B}[[z]], \quad (12)$$

where

$$\tilde{g}(z) = \frac{(q^4z; q^4)_\infty}{(q^2z; q^4)_\infty}, \quad (z, q)_n = \prod_{j=0}^n (1 - zq^j).$$

The function  $f(z)$  in (12) is the unique solution to the difference equation

$$f(z)f(q^2z) = d(q^2z)^{-1}, \quad f(z) \in \mathcal{B}[[z]]. \quad (13)$$

With this choice of  $f(z)$ , the matrix  $R$  is equal to the evaluation of the universal  $R$ -matrix  $[R]$ .

**2.4. Extension of Drinfeld's algebra.** For what follows it will be useful to describe a slightly extended version of Drinfeld's algebra,  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  [FR]. Consider the generators  $\alpha_{\pm n}^\pm$ ,

$$\alpha^\pm(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \alpha_{\pm n}^\pm z^{\pm n},$$

such that

$$\phi^\pm(z) = \alpha^\pm(z)^{-1} \alpha^\pm(q^2z)^{-1}. \quad (14)$$

The algebra  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  is generated by  $\xi^\pm(z), \alpha^\pm(z), q^c$  with relations as in (4) and

$$\begin{aligned} [\alpha^\pm(z), \alpha^\pm(w)] &= 0, \\ \alpha^+(z)\xi^+(w) &= d\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)^{-1}\xi^+(w)\alpha^+(z), \\ \alpha^-(z)\xi^-(w) &= d\left(q^2\frac{w}{z}\right)^{-1}\xi^-(w)\alpha^-(z), \\ \alpha^+(z)\xi^-(w) &= d\left(\frac{z}{w}q^c\right)\xi^-(w)\alpha^+(z), \\ \alpha^-(z)\xi^+(w) &= d\left(\frac{w}{z}q^{-c+2}\right)\xi^+(w)\alpha^-(z), \\ \alpha^+(z)\alpha^-(w) &= \frac{f(zq^c/w)}{f(zq^{-c}/w)}\alpha^-(w)\alpha^+(z). \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

The Hopf algebra structure extends to  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\alpha^+(z)) &= \alpha^+(z) \otimes \alpha^+(zq^{c_1}), \\ \Delta(\alpha^-(z)) &= \alpha^-(zq^{c_2}) \otimes \alpha^-(z), \\ S(\alpha^\pm(z)) &= \alpha^\pm(zq^{-c})^{-1}, \\ \varepsilon(\alpha^\pm(z)) &= 1. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

The two dimensional evaluation representation of  $\alpha^\pm(z)$  is obtained by solving the difference equation (14). The result is

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_z \alpha^+(w) &= f\left(\frac{w}{z}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & d\left(\frac{w}{z}\right) \end{pmatrix}, \\ \pi_z \alpha^-(w) &= \frac{1}{f\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & d\left(q^2\frac{z}{w}\right)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

### 3. THE QUANTUM CURRENT ALGEBRA $A(R)$

We define the Hopf algebra  $A(R)$  using the same methods introduced in [RSTS].

Consider the algebra generated by the coefficients of  $L_{ij}^\pm(z)$ , with  $i, j = 1, 2$ ,  $L_{ii}^\pm(z) \in A(R)[[z^{\pm 1}]]$ , and the off diagonal elements in  $A(R)[[z, z^{-1}]]$ . The matrix  $L^+$  ( $L^-$ ) is lower (upper) triangular.

The determining relations are

$$\begin{aligned} R_{12}\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)L_1^\pm(z)L_2^\pm(w) &= L_2^\pm(w)L_1^\pm(z)R_{12}\left(\frac{z}{w}\right), \\ R_{12}\left(\frac{z}{w}q^{-c}\right)L_1^+(z)L_2^-(w) &= L_2^-(w)L_1^+(z)R_{12}\left(\frac{z}{w}q^c\right). \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Here the matrix  $R(z)$  is the same as in (11) with  $f(z)$  as in (12). We choose  $f(z)$  by requiring that the quantum determinants

$$\mathcal{D}^\pm(z) = L_{11}^\pm(z)L_{22}^\pm(zq^{-2})$$

are central. The choice of the shift  $q^{-2}$  in the definition of  $\mathcal{D}^\pm(z)$  is motivated by the identification of the evaluation of  $L^+(z)$  with  $R(z)$  (see below).

Finally, the algebra  $A(R)$  is defined as the quotient of the algebra generated by  $L_{ij}^\pm(z)$  with relations (18) by the relation  $\mathcal{D}^\pm(z) = 1$ .

**Remark 3.1** This construction is motivated by the following considerations. Suppose there exists a universal  $R$ -matrix for  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  such that  $L^+(z) = (\text{id} \otimes \pi_z)\mathcal{R}$ ,  $L^-(z) = (\text{id} \otimes \pi_z)\mathcal{R}_{21}^{-1}$  and  $R(z/w) = (\pi_z \otimes \pi_w)\mathcal{R}$  [R]. Then the relations (18) follow from the Yang-Baxter relation for  $\mathcal{R}$ .

The algebra  $A(R)$  is a Hopf algebra with comultiplication

$$\Delta L^+(z) = L^+(z) \dot{\otimes} L^+(zq^{c_1}), \quad \Delta L^-(z) = L^-(zq^{c_2}) \dot{\otimes} L^-(z) \quad (19)$$

which is easily seen to be an algebra homomorphism of (18). (Here the notation  $\dot{\otimes}$  indicates matrix multiplication in  $V$  and tensor product in  $A(R)$ .) The co-unit acts as  $\varepsilon(L^\pm) = 1$ , and the action of the antipode is

$$S(L^\pm(z)) = L^\pm(zq^{-c})^{-1}.$$

**Remark 3.2** Since  $\mathcal{D}^\pm(z) = 1$ ,  $L_{ii}^\pm(z)^{-1} \in A(R)$ . The matrices  $S(L^\pm(z)) = L^\pm(z)^{-1}$  are well defined in the category  $\mathcal{O}^*$ , as they should be according to remark (2.1).

Define the map

$$\mu : A(R) \rightarrow \overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$$

as

$$\begin{aligned} L^+(z) &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^+(z) & 0 \\ \xi^+(z)\alpha^+(z) & \alpha^+(q^2z)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ L^-(z) &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^-(z) & -\alpha^-(z)\xi^-(z) \\ 0 & \alpha^-(q^2z)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.1.** *The map  $\mu$  is a Hopf algebra isomorphism.*

The proof is by direct calculation.

By using the evaluation representation for the Drinfeld generators, it is easily shown that

$$\pi_w L^+(z) = R(z/w), \quad \pi_w L^-(z) = R_{21}^{-1}(w/z).$$

(Here, we use the notation  $(\pi_w L^\pm(z))_{ij} = R_{ij,kl}(z/w)$  where the action of  $R$  on the basis vectors of  $V$  is  $R(z)v_i \otimes v_j = \sum_{k,l=1}^2 R_{ij,kl}(z)v_k \otimes v_l$ .)

The relations (18) in the evaluation representation are therefore equivalent to the Yang-Baxter equation for  $R$ :

$$R_{12}(z)R_{13}(wz)R_{23}(w) = R_{23}(w)R_{13}(wz)R_{12}(z). \quad (20)$$

The intertwining relation (10) with  $x = L^\pm(w)_{ij}$  is again a simple consequence of the Yang-Baxter relations (20), with the co-product as in (19).

Note that this Hopf algebra isomorphism provides a trivial proof that  $\Delta$  is an algebra homomorphism of Drinfeld's algebra (*c.f.* [DI]).

#### 4. THE POISSON ALGEBRA LIMIT

The Poisson limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  of Drinfeld's algebra is obtained by keeping  $p = q^c$  and the generators  $\xi^\pm$  and  $\phi^\pm$  or  $\alpha^\pm$  fixed. In this limit the algebra  $\overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$  becomes a Poisson algebra with

$$\{a, b\} = \lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{a \cdot b - b \cdot a}{\hbar}, \quad a, b \in \overline{U}_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$$

Explicitly,

$$\phi^\pm(z) = \alpha^\pm(z)^{-2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\{\alpha^\pm(z), \alpha^\pm(w)\} &= 0, \\
\{\xi^+(z), \xi^-(w)\} &= \left(\delta\left(\frac{z}{w}p^{-1}\right)\phi^-(w) - \delta\left(\frac{z}{w}p\right)\phi^+(z)\right), \\
\{\xi^\pm(z), \xi^\pm(w)\} &= \pm \frac{1}{2} \left(\lambda\left(\frac{w}{z}\right) - \lambda\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)\right) \xi^\pm(z) \xi^\pm(w), \\
\{\alpha^+(z), \alpha^-(w)\} &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\lambda\left(\frac{z}{w}p\right) - \lambda\left(\frac{z}{w}p^{-1}\right)\right) \alpha^+(z) \alpha^-(w), \\
\{\alpha^\pm(z), \alpha^\pm(w)\} &= -\frac{1}{2} \lambda\left(\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)^{\pm 1}\right) \alpha^\pm(z) \xi^\pm(w), \\
\{\alpha^\pm(z), \xi^\mp(w)\} &= \frac{1}{2} \lambda\left(\left(\frac{z}{w}p\right)^{\pm 1}\right) \alpha^\pm(z) \xi^\mp(w).
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

Again, these are formal power series relations with

$$\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1+z}{1-z}.$$

The algebra  $A(R)$  in this limit is a Poisson algebra generated by the elements  $\mathcal{L}_{ij}^\pm(z)$  as above, and the quantum determinant is the usual determinant. The relations (18) become, in this limit,

$$\begin{aligned}
\{\mathcal{L}_1^\pm(z), \mathcal{L}_2^\pm(w)\} &= [\mathcal{L}_1^\pm(z) \mathcal{L}_2^\pm(w), r\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)], \\
\{\mathcal{L}_1^+(z), \mathcal{L}_2^-(w)\} &= \mathcal{L}_1^+(z) \mathcal{L}_2^-(w) r\left(\frac{z}{w}p^{-1}\right) - r\left(\frac{z}{w}p\right) \mathcal{L}_1^+(z) \mathcal{L}_2^-(w).
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

The classical  $r$ -matrix is obtained from  $R(z)$  by taking the limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  of the elements of  $R$ . We find

$$R(z) = 1 + \hbar r(z) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^2). \tag{23}$$

Here we consider the off diagonal element of  $R$  to be in  $\mathcal{B}[[z, z^{-1}]]$ . This means that the coefficient in front of the  $\delta$  function in  $r$  is the coefficient of  $\hbar$  in the expansion of  $(q - q^{-1})f(z)/d(z)$ , which is 1. Thus, the classical  $r$ -matrix is

$$r(z) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda(z) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda(z) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \delta(z) & -\lambda(z) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda(z) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{24}$$

The isomorphism  $\mu$  gives, in this limit,

$$\mathcal{L}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^+(z) & 0 \\ \alpha^+(z)x^+(z) & \alpha^+(z)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{L}^- = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^-(z) & \alpha^-(z)x^-(z) \\ 0 & \alpha^-(z)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{25}$$

Since all the operators commute there is no problem with normal ordering in this limit.

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## APPENDIX A. THE INTERTWINING RELATION

The following is a proof of Proposition (2.1).

Let

$$\tilde{R}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1(z) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b_1(z) & \gamma_1\delta(z) & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_2\delta(z) & b_2(z) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a_2(z) \end{pmatrix},$$

with the diagonal elements in  $\mathbb{C}[[z]]$  and the off-diagonal elements in  $\mathbb{C}[[z, z^{-1}]]$ . Then, up to a scalar multiple, the unique solution to the intertwining relation (10) is  $R_{12}^{-1}(z)$ .

The proof consists of using the evaluation representation (8) to explicitly compute

$$\tilde{R}(z/z')(\pi_z \otimes \pi_{z'})\Delta(\xi^\pm(w)) = (\pi_z \otimes \pi_{z'})\Delta'(\xi^\pm(w))\tilde{R}(z/z').$$

Writing out these relations, it is immediately apparant that the off-diagonal terms of the matrix  $\tilde{R}$  must be proportional to the  $\delta$  function if they are nonzero. Cancelling an overall factor of  $\delta(w/z)^1$  and setting  $z' = 1$ , this results in eight relations between formal power series in  $z$  and  $z^{-1}$ :

$$a_1(z)d(q^2z^{-1}) = b_1(z) + d(q^2z)\gamma_2(z)\delta(z), \quad (26)$$

$$a_1(z) = \gamma_1(z)\delta(z) + d(q^2z)b_2(z), \quad (27)$$

$$b_1(z) + \gamma_1(z)\delta(z)/d(z^{-1}) = a_2(z)/d(z), \quad (28)$$

$$\gamma_2(z)\delta(z) + b_2(z)/d(z^{-1}) = a_2(z), \quad (29)$$

$$b_1(z) + \gamma_1(z)\delta(z)/d(z^{-1}) = a_1(z)/d(z), \quad (30)$$

$$\gamma_2(z)\delta(z) + b_2(z)/d(z^{-1}) = a_1(z), \quad (31)$$

$$a_2(z)d(q^2z^{-1}) = b_1(z) + d(q^2z)\gamma_2(z)\delta(z), \quad (32)$$

$$a_2(z) = \gamma_1(z)\delta(z) + b_2(z)d(q^2z). \quad (33)$$

The first four relations come from considering  $\Delta(xi^+)$  in (10) and the last four from  $\Delta(\xi^-)$ .

From (27),  $\gamma_1(z) = 0$  since all other terms are in  $\mathbb{C}[[z]]$  and there is nothing to cancel terms in  $\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]]$  coming from  $\delta(z)$ . Therefore, from (28),  $b_1(z) = \frac{a_2(z)}{d(z)}$ , and from (30),  $b_1(z) = \frac{a_1(z)}{d(z)}$ , so  $a_2 = a_1$ . From (33),  $a_1(z) = b_2(z)d(q^2z)$ .

As formal power series,

$$\frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} = \sum_{n \leq 0} z^n = \delta(z) - \frac{z}{1-z},$$

and therefore

$$d^{-1}(z^{-1}) = d(q^2z) + (q - q^{-1})\delta(z).$$

From (29),

$$\gamma_2(z)\delta(z) = (q^{-1} - q)b_2(z)\delta(z).$$

These relations determine  $R$  only up to a scalar multiple. Let

$$a_1(z) = \frac{a(z)}{1-z}.$$

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<sup>1</sup>In the sense the coefficient in front of  $\delta(w/z)$ , since it is independent of  $w$ , must be zero.



Then

$$b_1(z) = \frac{a(z)}{(1-z)d(z)}, \quad b_2(z) = \frac{a(z)}{(1-z)d(q^2z)}, \quad \gamma_2(z) = \frac{(q^{-1}-q)a(z)}{(1-z)d(q^2z)}.$$

Thus  $\tilde{R}$  is identified with the matrix  $R^{-1}(z)$

$$R_{12}^{-1}(z) = q^{-1/2}\tilde{g}(z)^{-2} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1-z} & & & \\ & \frac{q-q^{-1}z}{(1-z)^2} & 0 & \\ & \gamma'(z)\delta(z) & \frac{1}{q^{-1}-qz} & \\ & & & \frac{1}{1-z} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (34)$$

with

$$\gamma'(z) = \frac{q^{-1}-q}{(1-z)d(q^2z)} = \frac{q^{-1}-q}{q^{-1}-qz},$$

with  $a(z) = q^{-1/2}\tilde{g}(z)^{-2}$ .

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